operator under the Aircraft Act, 1934 and the rules framed thereunder.

Formation of Air Traffic Board/Air Traffic Authority

584. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of "open sky policy" of the Government declared in 1991, it is pertinent, to have fair play among public and private airlines, to have an "Air Traffic Boards" or "Air Traffic Authority";

(b) if so, is there any proposal before the Government to constitute this Board/ Authority in near future; and

(c) if so, by when such institution will be formed and what will be its term of reference and operation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) There is a proposal, though at a nascent stage, to constitute a multi-member Civil Aviation Authority through an Act of Parliament. The matter is under consideration.

Implementation of New Civil Aviation Policy

585. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the "Civil Aviation Policy" declared last year which envisages that no foreign airlines can have subsidiary in domestic operation;

(b) the number of such proposals pending with Government for clearance after this new policy, who are they; and

(c) the number of proposals cleared and when they are likely to be operational in our country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) None.

(c) Does not arise.

Expansion of Trivandrum International Airport

586. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the expansion scheme for Trivandrum International Airport; and

(b) the amount earmarked for the scheme and by what time the expansion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The expansion scheme for Trivandrum International airport envisages:

— interior modification of existing terminal building and extension of apron at a cost of Rs. 8.97 crores. These projects are likely to be completed by December, 1998.

— construction of a new terminal complex at an estimated cost of Rs. 200 crores. Rs. 100 crores has been earmarked in the 9th Five Year Plan for this purpose.

Additional flights of foreign airlines

587. SHRI BANARSI DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India earns a considerable revenue from tourists and with the collapse of currencies in the Far East, India is facing an increased competition for tourism and investment from these countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether foreign airlines are still interested in monitoring additional flights in India, is now not the most appropriate time for India to leverage the maximum benefits from any negotiations on the various air service agreements for any additional capacity; and